

MINUTES OF THE STANTON DREW PARISH ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 12TH MAY 2016 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle (Chair), Cllr. M Elsbury, Cllr. M Naunton, Cllr. D Winstone and two parishioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor's J Hudson, G Roscoe, J swift and Ward Councillor K Warrington.

MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2015, having been previously circulated to the parish councillors, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

THE CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The year seems to have flown by and it has been another incredibly busy one, if not a little testing at times.

First of all, the Neighbourhood Plan. Four of us sit on the Steering group, chaired by Cllr. John Swift. I really want to say a huge thank you to all on the Steering group but in particular members of the community – Karen Cross, Cllr. K Warrington, Sue and Clarke Osborne, Andy Strickland, Steve Croucher, Shirley and Pete Edwards and Felicity James and others joining in the Working groups – Liz Rudman, Fiona Lewis, Darryl Whitcher, David Ashton, Mamdouh El-Shanawany and ALL the other parishioners helping and engaging in the process. So thank you to the wider Parish for taking time and trouble to consult and engage constructively. Thankfully, the “negative campaigning”, both by word of mouth and through facebook seems to have stopped and although this and associated events, disrupted progress for several months, we continue to make forward progress.

Everyone gives their time voluntarily and all are unpaid, which is a big ask for busy people giving so much, and you deserve a big thank you for helping the Parish to look to the future, bringing wants, needs and aspirations together into what I hope will be a successful Neighbourhood Plan for the next 15 years to put the Parish in a positive position to remain and continue to be a very special place to live.

Continuing on the Community theme, we have SO much going on. Many people giving and doing something for the community.

The Community Café is two years old this week! Great stuff, well done Karen Lyne and Anne Bennett for getting it started. It literally does bring every man and his dog together! Happy birthday and may it go from strength to strength.

We have a resident Womble!

Mrs Womble aka Shirley Edwards and her husband Pete do a cracking job ‘wombling free’ and encouraging everyone to take care of the Parish that bit better. Shirley has been great at going into

the school and working with the children, organising two parish litter picking evenings, including “Clean for the Queen”. Thank you, and well done Shirley and Pete.

We now have a well-attended Community Cinema, principally courtesy of Andrew and Julie Vickery and Rob Taylor but there are others involved. Love the new comfy chairs and the chance to sit down.

Penny and Mike Cross do **lots** of voluntary work for the school, as does Sue Osborne, a longstanding School Governor, on the NHP Steering Group, trustee of the Publow with Pensford and the Stanton’s Community Trust, member of the WI and Rotary but we have all sorts of people on all sorts of committees making things happen. So brilliant, thanks everyone.

The PPSCT, which received a £1300 donation from our increasingly popular Rok the Stones marathon, has made several grants to village organisations this year including:

- School
- Sports Field
- Bell Tower

In terms of Parish Council matters, our role I feel has become ever more demanding and I think it will continue to do so with funding cuts and the expectation that Parish Councils and local communities will pick up where local councils may no longer be able/want to. I term this the ‘academisation’ of parish councils, which will mean we will have to become more communicating, keeping on the ball with what’s happens within the Unitary Authority and nationally, not so easy for a small Parish Council but we can do it and I would welcome and source expertise from within the Parish to help the Parish be on as strong a footing as possible for the future.

As a smaller authority we have been ensuring that we are fit for purpose and complying with the Transparency Code, which has been a useful opportunity to review what we do and how we do it.

Additionally, we voted to go for the Quality Award Scheme at the last PC meeting. We start at Foundation level but will over time be expected to, and need to, work our way up the levels to be able to compete with other Parish Councils within the Unitary Authority for those all-important funding opportunities. The Neighbourhood Plan will guide us in this in some areas. I am up for the challenge but not without some trepidation and knowing that the voluntary work; work; life balance will need some negotiation and yet more patience from my long suffering husband! So Gentlemen you’d better get your ‘brownie points’ in with your wives too!

We are all learning new skills, getting to grips with the website, thanks for taking this on Martin, and using computers more widely, so easy for those who have always used them, not so for others.

We are in the process of bidding for a share of the B&NES’ proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), to fund infrastructure needed for the Parish. I am hopeful that this will help us bring super/ultrafast broadband to all of the Parish sooner than expected.

The necessity for excellent broadband for the future has gone stratospheric over the last year or two. In the future, we will use it in ways we probably cannot imagine now, already it’s used for

health care monitoring, education, monitoring the home environment. I'm going to need super-duper fast if my fridge is going to second guess what I need, especially when it's empty.

I am delighted that academisation of the primary school by 2020 is no longer compulsory. I welcome that the Federation of our outstanding schools will have a choice, which should put our school in a stronger position. Our school is so important to us as a community, for those of us who don't have young children; the school creates the diurnal buzz of humanity if nothing else. The school attracts wonderful teachers, long may that continue.

I can't close without thanking all the Councillors for their continued endeavours and as always John Harvey, our long serving & suffering Clerk, what would we do without you? Thank you so much John.

Judith Chubb-Whittle – Chair.

THE RICHARD JONES FOUNDATION REPORT

The accounts for the year ending 31st August 2015, which is the end of the Trust's financial year, were presented by John Harvey who is one of the two parish trustees, the other one being Judith Chubb-Whittle.

Total income was £12,719 which included £8,749 carried forward. Total payments were £5,642; the balance in hand therefore was £7,077.

Educational grants paid to six Stanton Drew recipients totalled £1,333 and payments for the benefit of the poor were paid to five Stanton Drew recipients at Christmas time totalling £100.

THE PUBLOW WITH PENSFORD AND STANTON'S COMMUNITY TRUST

The report was presented by Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle who is one of the Stanton Drew Parish Trustees. The Trust was constituted on 2nd February 2015 and grants financial awards for the benefit of the two parishes. There are six trustees, including the Chairs of the two Parish Council's. Stanton Drew has three representatives from the parish in total.

Funds are derived from donations and fundraising principally from the 100 Club. In addition, this year the Rok the Stones marathon donated its profits of £1300 to the Community Trust. Thank you to all of those who were involved with that event in any way, as it was a truly community event.

In total the Trust has made grants totalling approximately £17,000.

To date Stanton Drew has benefitted from 4 awards.

£500 – Stanton Drew Primary School Gardening Club.

£1000 – Stanton Drew Pre-School.

£1000 – Stanton Drew Bell Ringers.

£4500 – Has been awarded to the Sports Field Association to help in the refurbishment of their new facilities.

The Trustees welcome more applications coming forward. Application forms can be downloaded from the website www.ppsct.org.uk or contact Judith Chubb-Whittle or John Harvey – Parish Clerk.

ADOPTION OF THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2016

The unaudited accounts were presented by the clerk/RFO, having been circulated to the parish councillors prior to the meeting.

Balances brought forward totalled £7,828.10. Receipts during the year totalled £12,102.09 and payments were £16,490.76. Payments exceeded receipts therefore by £4,388.67. Closing balances totalled £3,706.86.

It was proposed by Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle, seconded by Cllr. M Naunton and agreed that the unaudited accounts should be adopted.

It was agreed that letters of thanks should be sent to Mr G Roscoe and Mr S Budd for carrying out the maintenance and floral presentations at the War Memorial and Village Seat areas even though the Village of the Year and the Best kept Village competitions are no longer held.

There were no other issues raised relevant to this meeting and the meeting was declared closed at 8.30 pm.

_____ CHAIRMAN _____ DATE